(b) if so, whether adequate surveillance is being kept on our nearly 5400 kilometres coastline so that our off-shore oil installations are safely guarded and our imports through sea row amounting to nearly Rs. 1,500,000 crores and also substantial exports are not adversely affected?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) and (b) India's coastal waters are guarded by the Indian Cost Guard in coordination with the State Police and the Navy. The measures that have been taken and planned to enhance the coastal security include regular aerial surveillance and maritime patrolling along the coast and establishment of coastal police stations in the littoral States as part of Coastal Security Scheme. The Indian Navy has an elaborate arrangement to thwart threats at sea. Such measures are regularly updated in coordination with the Indian Coast Guard and other central as well as local agencies. In addition, patrolling along India's International Maritime Boundary Line, cooperation with India's maritime neighbours in the field of sharing information on ship movement and platform signature, etc., are some of other measures for maintaining good order at sea in the region. India also holds interactions with other countries, in which issues of mutual interest including providing security to sea-lanes in the Indian Ocean Region are discussed.

Delay in Induction of Arjun Tank

†891. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:
SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that considerable delay is taking place for the induction of Arjun tank in the Army;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to ensure the speedy manufacturing of Arjun tank?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. There has been some delay due to frequent design modification and the time required to procure some major assemblies.

(c) The necessary steps have been taken to ensure timely availability of all critical aggregates. Production of the MBT Arjun tank is being regularly monitored through working Group Meeting held under the chairmanship of Director General Mechanised Forces and Steering Committee Meeting held under the Co-Chairmanship of Secretary (Defence Production) and Scientific Advisor to Raksha Mantri.

MIG-21 Crashes

892. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of accidents which took place during the last three years involving fighter plane MiG-21 and number of lives lost;

(b) whether Government is considering to review the further use of MiG-21; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) A total number of 10 accidents took place involving MiG-21 aircraft during the last three years and the current

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.